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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1909.

MARSHALL WARD AND THE WEATHER BUREAU.

Chief Health Officer Levy writes to the Board of Aldermen to say that he "would regard it as a calamity" if the government weather station were lost to Richmond. So strong a statement in behalf of the public health adds another important reason, if any were needed, why this valuable institution should not be driven away by the city Councilmen. When the overwhelming arguments for accepting the government's offer are weighed against the utterly insignificant arguments for rejecting it, it seems incredible that any city with claims to progressiveness should be, and remain, in the unhappy situation in which Richmond finds herself to-day.

These six Aldermen who are obstructing the needs and, as we believe, the desires of the whole city, may be divided roughly into two classes. Three of these, namely, W. H. Adams, of Jefferson; P. H. Donahoe, of Madison; and Robert Whitte, Jr., of Clay, may be said to have no personal interest in the matter. They cannot imagine that their seats are involved, nor are they influenced by any desire to "keep solid" with their constituents. Presumably, then, they vote against the giving of the Chimborazo site either from sympathy with the few protesting property holders, or because they are opposed to the erection of any public buildings in parks.

Now, The Times-Dispatch has the sincerest respect for the principles of any honest man. It acknowledges the right of every Councilman to have strong individual convictions on all matters of public policy, and to have and to hold the courage of these convictions. But it also believes, and believes strongly, that where it has become evident that such personal views are opposed to the wishes of the overwhelming majority, it is a matter of civic duty to yield these views. Such a case has plainly arisen now. An unusual opportunity for sacrifice and public service confronts Mr. Adams, Mr. Donahoe and Mr. Whitte. These gentlemen must not conceive that anybody would think the worse of them if they announced, one or all, that, though personally opposed to the giving of park space to public buildings, they were ready to bow to what is so evidently the will of an almost unanimous community. On the contrary, any of them who did this would receive the immediate thanks and congratulations of the city on having been big enough and courageous enough to defer their own preferences in the interests of the common desire and the common good.

The three Aldermen from Marshall Ward—E. D. Richardson, John L. Satterfield and A. C. Nelson—are in a different situation. The Times-Dispatch wishes to be entirely fair to these gentlemen. It realizes perfectly the kind of pressure that is often brought to bear on elective officers under ward rule. It acknowledges at its full weight the argument that representatives owe a distinct duty to the voters in their district. It gives these Aldermen the benefit of every doubt as to whether or not they would have voted differently if they lived in Monroe or Clay. And when it has conceded that and every other possible thing, the stark fact remains that these three men are opposing something which part of Marshall Ward wants opposed, and which all the rest of the city wants instantly accepted.

We do not know whether arguments based purely on the merits of this case would now have weight with these three Aldermen, nor shall we attempt any at this time. We earnestly desire to see these arguments come from a different source and to be of a different nature. We mean arguments that have votes to back them. Is it possible that Marshall Ward, as an undivided whole, is pleased with the sort of representation it is getting in the administration of this city? Is the solid ward gratified by the light in which it now appears in the eyes of all Richmond?

As matters stand in this Weather Bureau matter, Marshall Ward is governing the city of Richmond. Unhappily, it is giving us a purely selfish government, dictated by aims no higher than the personal gratification or private interests of a few persons, and forcibly executed at the expense, and over the indignity, of all the rest of the city. Now, this is not an enviable position for any ward to occupy. We are confident that it is a position not agreeable to all the voters in Marshall Ward. We are confident that many of them bitterly resent it, hotly repudiate the theory that Marshall Ward is always ready to sacrifice the city for her own gain, whenever a lucky chance happens to give her the strategic position. Indeed, we are confident that far more than half the voters in this ward desire, or at least are willing, to grant the Chimborazo site to the government.

But the fatal weakness of the situation has been that they have not made their wishes known. While the public-spirited citizens of Marshall have been industriously at work, busily buzzing about with their petitions, their conferences, and doubtless their exacting of pledges. They have so bestirred themselves that they have managed to persuade Messrs. Richardson, Satterfield and Nelson that they represent public sentiment, when in reality, so we believe, they represent exactly the reverse. And the result of this is that Marshall Ward is unpleasantly advertised to the city as an obstructionist ward, a selfish ward, a ward which cares a great deal more about a little section of its own territory than for the welfare and progress of Richmond.

Have the sentiments of Marshall Ward been truly represented before the Board of Aldermen? We reject the idea utterly. Through the apathy or silence of her many progressive and public-spirited citizens, it has been Marshall's misfortune to have her good name exploited by other sorts of citizens of whom we cannot speak so highly. It is the people who care most about an issue who have their way in this world, and the obstructionists have so far happened to care most. But it is not yet too late to undo this unfortunate situation. This issue may yet come up for reconsideration. If there are many men in Marshall Ward who are displeased with the kind of representation they have lately received, and who know that there are, this is the time for them to make that displeasure known and felt.

We do not say that any voters have intimated to any Marshall Ward Alderman that his tenure would be decidedly uncertain if he voted for the Chimborazo site. It is possible, though, that something of this sort may have taken place. In any case, public-spirited citizens should be as active in defense of their reputation for public spirit as private-spirited citizens are in defense of their private interests or their personal pockets. If every man in Marshall Ward who is indignant at the unattractive light in which that ward has been placed would make it his personal business to see, or to write to, his three Aldermen, it is possible that some one of them might be, individually, the means of saving a valuable institution to his city.

If these three Aldermen honestly believe that they are representing the spirit of Marshall Ward, it is necessary that they should be undeceived. Pressure must be met by counter-pressure. Delegations must be silenced by bigger delegations. Petitions must be discounted by longer petitions. The progressive and disinterested men of Marshall, and there are very many, must work if they are to accomplish anything. They owe it to themselves, as well as to the city, to do so. It is not fair that they should remain finally lumped with the reactionaries and the obstructionists. It is not just that they should be confused in the public mind with the interested and the selfish. It is not right that their ward should stand discredited before the city as one which is satisfied to exploit Richmond that some of her population should enjoy fuller possession of property which belongs to all of us alike.

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE STANDARD OIL CASE.

Probably the decision of Judge Anderson in the Standard Oil case will mark the end of the most celebrated government suit in Mr. Roosevelt's administration. There is some talk of carrying the case to the Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, but it remains to be seen whether the new Attorney-General will display that degree of enthusiasm in Mr. Bonaparte's left-over litigation. At present there appears little of pressure that is often brought to bear on elective officers under ward rule. It acknowledges at its full weight the argument that representatives owe a distinct duty to the voters in their district. It gives these Aldermen the benefit of every doubt as to whether or not they would have voted differently if they lived in Monroe or Clay. And when it has conceded that and every other possible thing, the stark fact remains that these three men are opposing something which part of Marshall Ward wants opposed, and which all the rest of the city wants instantly accepted.

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Borrowed Angles.

Where is the mind we had before? To every body in the land, the thought comes up and who's got more? It's Lent.

Where is the purpose that we should? To every body in the land, the thought comes up and who's got more? It's Lent.

Where is the constant wish to go? To every body in the land, the thought comes up and who's got more? It's Lent.

Where is the great desire to dance? To every body in the land, the thought comes up and who's got more? It's Lent.

Where is the yearning for the good? To every body in the land, the thought comes up and who's got more? It's Lent.

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The Courts of Europe.

By La Marquise de Fontenay.

Earl of Seaford History a Melodrama.

ANDREW OGLIVIE GRANT, who had just married in London, Carlisle, the daughter of the late Earl of Seaford, and one of the principal heiresses of the house, Senora Erasmia, famous as the first woman and the greatest landowner in the world, that country of vast territorial possessions, the next heir to the Earl of Seaford, but merely a third or fourth cousin.

True, young Lord Seaford has no son, but he has a daughter, the Hon. Lady Seaford, who is married, and failing him, the title of Earl of Seaford, the Hon. Robert, younger brother of the late Earl. There are few more romantic stories than that of the Earl of Seaford, and in certain of its phases it may be said to extend from one end of the world to the other.

For the present Earl of Seaford makes his home in the Antipodes, where his father had to earn his living as a sailor, while his grandfather, the Countess of Seaford, retains possession of the vast estates of the earldom. In order to explain this condition of affairs, it is necessary to state that the fifth Earl of Seaford became insane. The sixth Earl, his brother, therefore succeeded to the title, and the Countess of Seaford, who was the daughter of the fifth Earl, became insane.

When he died, however, John Charles, his son, succeeded to the title, and the Countess of Seaford, who was the daughter of the fifth Earl, became insane. The sixth Earl, his brother, therefore succeeded to the title, and the Countess of Seaford, who was the daughter of the fifth Earl, became insane.

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STATE PRESS.

Newport News Aldermen.

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Good Roads Lesson.

Of the 100 counties in Virginia ninety have completed the construction of the Act of Assembly appropriating money for road building purposes in time to share in the distribution of the fund—the condition being that each county should share with the State's contribution by the appropriation of an equal amount. This is a very commendable condition, and general and widespread interest in the subject throughout the State—an interest that is well shown by the fact that in the near future, all that is needed to put the people of the several counties to the test is a few miles of such roads to serve as object lessons. The contribution made by the State, supplemented by the local appropriation, will be sufficient to that end, to construct a mile or two of good roads in every one of the ninety counties, and to furnish the material for the same.

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